

Denmark Gym School--Ollerup:  
Bess Pitt--1926--21 years old

Transcribed by John Byl  
Redeemer College,  
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This is an adventure of 1926. Twas 1926 that my cousin in Philadelphia, Dr. R. Tait MacKenzie persuaded mother and dad to send me on a summer course arranged by the Russel Sage College in New York and the Boston School of Physical Education for teacher graduates in that area of work to attend the Neils Bukh College of Gymnastics in Ollerup in Denmarark in the Island of Punem about three miles from Christiania and not too far from Odensa.

We were to be the first American group to attend and there would be graduates from 22 other universitites from California to all over the United States and even Turkey. It was from the US and I was the lone Canadian. Helen Andrews, from the Russel Sage College in New York, and Helen McKinstry of the Boston School of Physical Education were in charge of the group. I was in my early twenties, very early, and just finished teaching one year at Bryan Mawre College in Pennsylvania and about to venture crossing the ocean in the Elli Olga, a small cabin passenger boat of the Scandinavian line. I decided in my first letters home to tear pages from a scribler instead of writing continual letters. Recall this was in 1926 and comments, slang and thrills were quite different in those days. Maybe they were the good old days, we'll see.



High School of Gymnastics  
Ollerup, Denmark  
C/O Director Niels Bukh

Dear Mother and Dad,

I'm sending every detail of the trip home, for cats sake don't let anyone read it but you, when you have an afternoon off and nothing to do.

I am feeling fine now--but maybe stiff to-morrow. We have the nicest place and the girls are great. Two more girls from Turkey have joined us. They are Americans teaching in the Y. there. I am the only Canadian. I love the work and only wish you could see how beautiful the place is. It is just perfect.

I hope to hear from you soon and by the way my cheques are running out. I'll be looking forward to reinforcements. I got my ticket home,--sail Aug. 6th.

I have written all the bunk I can so--love to everyone.

and heaps of love to yourselves.

Bess





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